



CORBA

The Black Dragon King

THE SPACE PIRATE

BUICHI TERASAWA

ILLUSTRATION BY TERAUWA / MANGA ENTERTAINMENT



The Black Dragon King

The Phantom Mountain

The Black Dragon King



It is said that the light
emanating from
the starseeds spread
throughout this sector
reach a radius of
300,000 kilometers.

Attention please.
The Queen Love
is now
anchoring in
a sector of space
called the Salfa
Triangle.



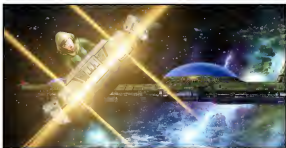
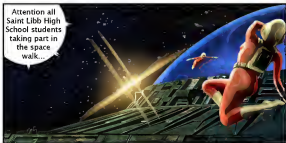
Attention please.
The Queen Love
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a sector of space
called the Salfa
Triangle.



It is said that the light
emanating from
the starseeds spread
throughout this sector
reach a radius of
300,000 kilometers.



Attention all
Saint Libb High
School students
taking part in
the space
walk...

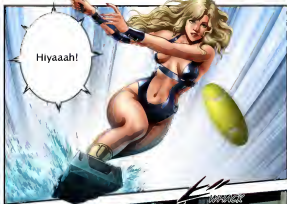


It is believed that long ago, these starseeds were an important source of protein for the Elvoan people who once thrived in this region.



Nowadays, however, this region of glowing starseeds is a famous tourist attraction.

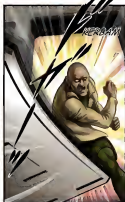




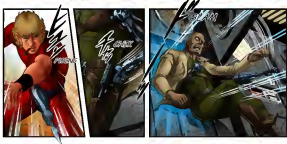














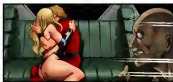


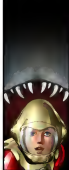


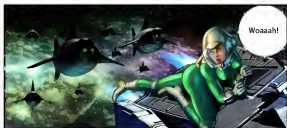


If it's your duty to protect these students, don't take them on a space walk in the first place.

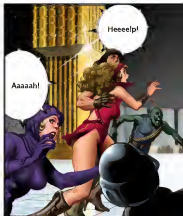


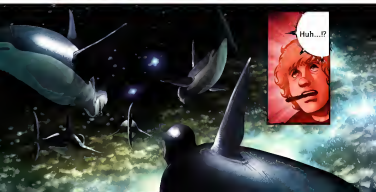
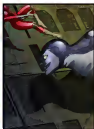




















That's right. You've arrived in a godforsaken place.



Oh man, I'd say this is a few tiers below hell.



Anyway, give me a hand, will ya? I'm stuck and can't move.



Huh? You're still alive?



I'm built a little tougher than the average dude

Yep, I don't die that easily or my name ain't Jack.



Gators! They must've gotten sucked up along with the ship.



Aaaa-hhh!



Well, since you've asked so nicely...



Woah!



Cobra!
Behind you!



Grab on!

VREEN



Damn!
There's
just too
many of
them!



Hm
...?!



Name's Lamoor.
I live here.
Although...
I'm a captive
prisoner, just
like you.

You
are...?



We're safe
now. They
can't keep
up at this
speed.

Phew...
That was
close.











Cobra!



Heh heh...
Like I said.
I need your
body.



He'll be
out cold for
a half
a day.

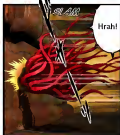


W...what
are you
going to
do with
me?



It's no use...
That coffee
cup he was
drinking out
of is loaded
with sleep
medicine.











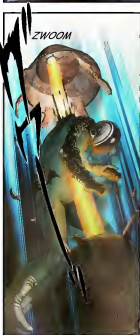


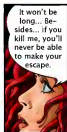


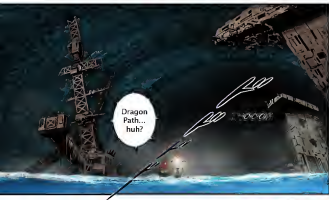


I hear one round of gunshots... Where's the other one?









That's what we
call this 300
kilometer-long
stomach of the
Jigor.

Star-
max
...!?



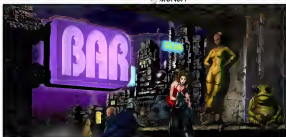
The Dragon Path
is a legend told
here in Starmax.
It's said that the
path leads to the
world outside.







MUNCH



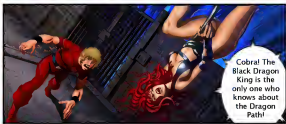


The Black Dragon King sends his Dragons now and then, looking for people to enslave at his castle.

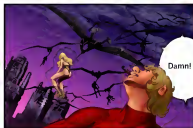


Lamoor!

Woah!



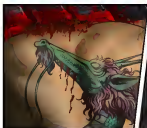
Cobra! The Black Dragon King is the only one who knows about the Dragon Path!





Go 150 kilometers south-west from here..













May we receive the blessing of the almighty Black Dragon King!



This is proof of our loyalty to the great Black Dragon King.



In our act of devotion, we offer our body and soul.







By the time the bearer reaches adulthood...



The dragon grows as the body bearing the tattoo grows.



After a year passes, a dragon is born out of the egg tattoo.



The spirit of the Black Dragon King ...!?

The tattoo has the spirit of the Black Dragon King. Thus, no one in the Dragon Tribe defies the Black Dragon King.



The dragon opens its mouth towards the neck.



No! Please, no!



...gets his head bitten off by the dragon tattoo!

Anyone who defies the Black Dragon King...

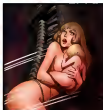


H...how could that be...?

Fool...! You
make a
mockery of
the Black
Dragon
King's fury!



Please, spare
my child!
Please don't
give him the
tattoo!



Wahhh
Wahhh!







Great priestess!
There is no one else on the vehicle!

Look! The neck! He must have betrayed the Black Dragon King!

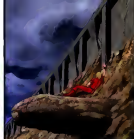


Yes, right away!

Lower the gates.



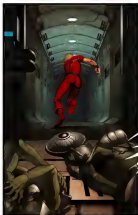


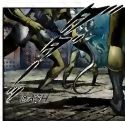
















We'll make him one of the Dragon Tribe.



No... It'd be a waste to make him a slave...



Great priestess, should we kill him? We could send him to the quarries...

How... He's still alive!



To find the Dragon Path.

Which is...?



That's right. And to accomplish one more thing...

So Cobra came to save us...



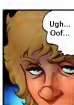
Anyway, I'm going to find Cobra. You wait there.



Only the Black Dragon King knows where the path lies.



It's the way out of the Jigor's stomach.















...and when the time comes, the head gets blown off!

This is probably a small bomb at the end of this needle. This gets lodged in the neck...



But the heads actually came off...



...and it only looks like it's eating your head off.

Because of that, the dragon on your back appears to grow...



But... you don't know the true terror of the Black Dragon King!



When some-one tries to defy the Black Dragon King, it explodes...

Yes... that's right... and it has a built-in computer.



You're just asking for a painful death!

...!
Are you serious...?



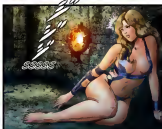
I just came to see that Black Dragon King of yours.

Why did you come here...!?

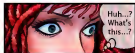


And you're gonna have to lead me to him.

I'd rather die than spend the rest of my life in the belly of the Jigor. He knows about the Dragon Path that leads out of this place.















This place
is complete
madness...

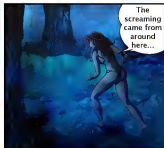


Wh... what
is this eerie
place...?



Is it him...?
This terrible
insanity that's
brewing in the
stillness...















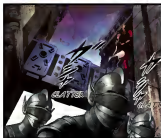


I'm sorta in a hurry too.

I don't want to interrupt the Black Dragon King during dinner, but let's get going.







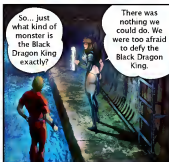


We're just being used as pawns under the Black Dragon King's tyrannical reign.



The Dragon Tribe are descendants of people who were on ships swallowed by the Jigor, just like you.

So... just what kind of monster is the Black Dragon King exactly?



There was nothing we could do. We were too afraid to defy the Black Dragon King.

I'm Yoko O'Brian, and I'm an Earthling... For eight generations, the women in my family were all employed as priestesses for the Black Dragon King.



Hey, wait a minute. By the sound of it, you've never actually met this guy, have you?



The Black Dragon King isn't human. He's more powerful than anyone can imagine... He's a demon who rules over a regime of fear.



According to the legend, the Black Dragon King was already in the belly of the Jigor when the first ship was swallowed.



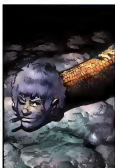
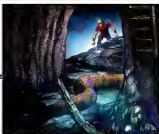








That's it... those eyes!







Yoko...!
Pull
yourself
together!



There's no
way you
can defeat
the Black
Dragon
King!

It was a
mistake
for me to
bring you
here!



No! I can't
take it! I'm
about to
go mad!



Yoko.



Get out of
this place!
Run, before
it's too late!



Yoko, you've
done some-
thing stupid.
You foolish
woman...

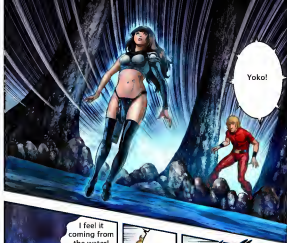


Black
Dragon
King...!



N...no!
Stop,
please!

Now come,
Yoko.
Come to
me.



Yoko!



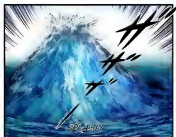
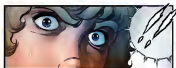
I feel it
coming from
the water!
Endless
fear...



Urgh!



Strange...
There's
nothing in
the water.
But...













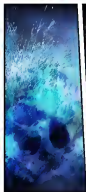


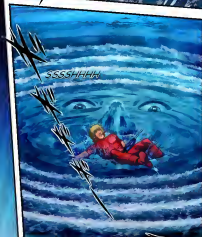


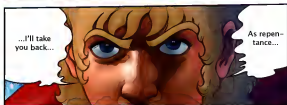
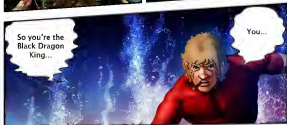
Powerful dread has pierced their souls.



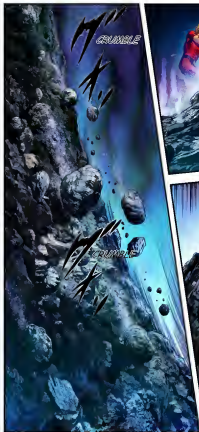








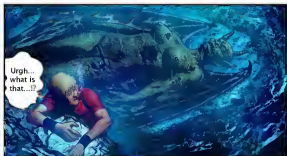






Wooaaah!









Do you know
why I al-
lowed you to
live and
come to me?



You are a
rare kind of
man who
does not feel
fear.

It's
because
you're
special.

Heh heh...
I could have
killed you
when you were in the
tunnel.



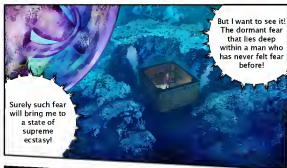
You've lived
constantly
face-to-face
with death.



You've
been to
hell and
back many
times!



You've ex-
perienced
many dan-
gerous
situations...







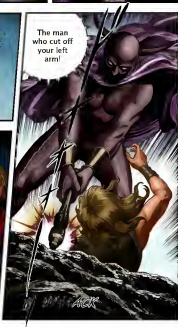
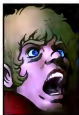


What's wrong? It's the woman you once loved... Have you forgotten how she died for you...?











There it is!
I can feel
your fear!



Yes. Now
you will
die.

I can now
enter the
depths of
your soul!

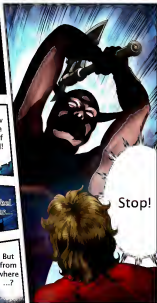


His eyes
are on
me...

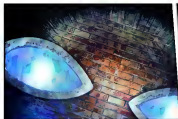
I can feel
his eyes...

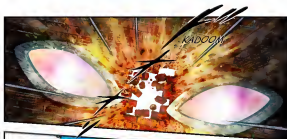


But
from
where
...?



Stop!



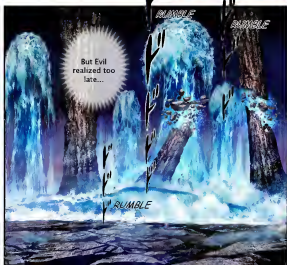




At that
moment...
Cobra's soul
allowed Evil
to penetrate.



Yes...
Evil had
believed that
it had
completely
conquered
Cobra.



But Evil
realized too
late...





Those who were killed after having their fear absorbed are to wander in hell for eternity...





Oh...! That must be
the Dragon Path...
It leads out of the
Jigor! This must be
the way to the
Jigor's bowels!



...
What is
that!?



Evil had closed
off the open-
ing in the
stomach to
build a castle!



Everything that
had been swal-
lowed in the past
tens of thousands
of years is all
being expelled
at once!

Now, the
walls of
that castle
are collaps-
ing!









The Phantom Mountain

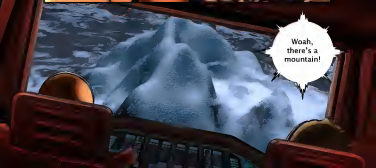


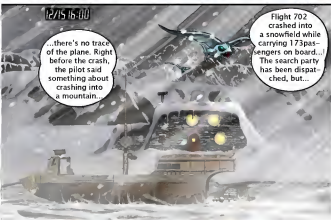


This is flight 702.
We are now flying
at an altitude of
30,000 feet with
minimal
turbulence.

12/2 9:59









Temperatures at night can reach as low as minus fifty degrees at night around here!

Anyway, there couldn't possibly be any survivors.



I mean, they say that the phantom mountain can't even be detected by radar.

Yeah, but it would make sense if the plane did crash on Kagerou Mountain. They're saying that the search party couldn't find Flight 702.



Well excuse me! I thought you were a poodle.



There's a lady present. You don't even say hello?



Hold it!

And you are? Let me guess. You shine her shoes?



This lady here is rather well known in New York... Part of a certain "organization."



Watch your mouth, kid.



That's enough, Frank.



Son of a...!

Let's try it sometime.



You've got quite the nerve. You think you could talk to me like that on the streets of New York?



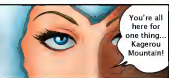




Nah,
I'm
Santa
Claus.



W...what
are you,
a cop?



You're all
here for
one thing...
Kagerou
Mountain!



Ahahaha... You
must all know
about the 20
tons of gold bars
that was loaded
on Flight 702..



Why else
would you
come to this
godforsaken
winter
wasteland?

It seems
everyone
here is after
the same
thing.



Everyone here is
after that gold
sitting on that
mountain!



Huh?
In on
what?

So, how about
it, Johnson?
Since you know
who we really
are anyway,
you want in?



You are
looking for
Kagerou
Mountain.
That moun-
tain only ap-
pears during
storms.

Hey, Captain
Jeremiah!
This storm
isn't letting
up!

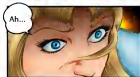


You're right,
Leo. That's the
only way.
Sound good,
Johnson?

We're all here for
the same thing,
except for Jerem-
iah. What do you
say we divide
the loot into
eight?











All right, get
swallowed up
by the frozen
ocean and
die, then!

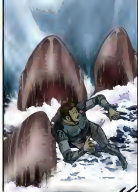
Screw that! That's
for climbing the
mountain! If we
use up the fuel...













It... dis-appears!



You should all beware

Frank could not see the mountain. This is because he did not believe it existed.



The moment you doubt the existence of this mountain, it disappears.



What are you climbing this mountain for? I'm guessing it's not about the gold...



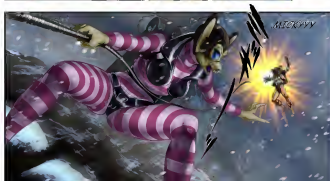
Hmph... So Jeremiah's climbing too, huh? We'd have to split the loot with him too...



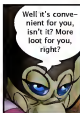
No... I'm not interested in the gold.

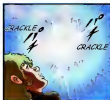
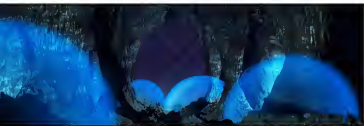


Don't be like that. He's a mountain climbing pro. He'll lead us there.



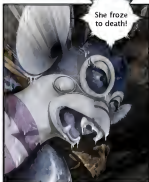












She froze
to death!



L...look:
Jeri...
She's...

What!?
What is
it!?



No... This
is no
accident.

God damn...
Her barrier
tent fuel must
have run out.



Huh...!?
So she's
been
murde-
red!?

Someone
took out the
fuel tube
intention-
nally.



So someone
must have
visited her
tent.



Naw. She
was a bomb
maker. She
didn't mess
around with
fire.

Did Jeri
smoke?



Yup, and we
have no idea
who it is

What are you
saying?
There's
a murderer
among us!?



No, but we do have clues. I found this near Jeri's tent.



Whoever killed Jeri is a left-handed man!



Who knows? There are three of us who are left-handed. You, the priest Sebastian, and...

What, you're saying it's me?



Look at this matchbook. It's being used from the left. Anyone who's right-handed would use them from the right.

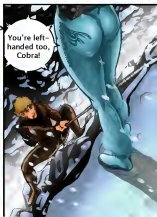


How the hell would you know that?



What!? He's Cobra!

That's Cobra the pirate! A thieving murderer!



You're left-handed too, Cobra!

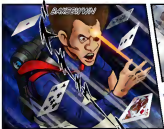
Heh. That's what happens to a fraud like you, ripping off poor people with rigged card games....



Don't think I forgot! You blasted out my left eye!



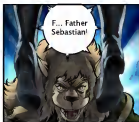
I get it now, Cobra. No wonder you knew my name. Guess you changed your face, huh?



I've had it! Die!



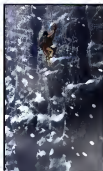
















Shut up! The gold is here! There's twenty tons of gold bars at the peak of this mountain!



Wh... who was that...!?

There is no gold here. There is only death.



C...cut it out. The gold is here. The gold is...

There was no gold from the beginning! You will achieve nothing by climbing this mountain! Hahaha!



How do you know? You haven't seen the gold. You've only heard rumors.



B...but is there really...?

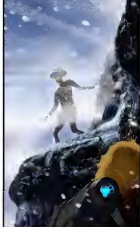


Don't let him get to you, Leo! The gold exists! You have to believe!



Leo!





You got it right. I killed Jeri and Linda.



Keh heh. You really are as sharp as they say, Cobra the pirate!

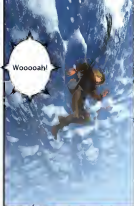


The Catholic church forbids suicide. Why would a Catholic priest kill himself?

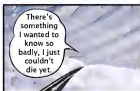


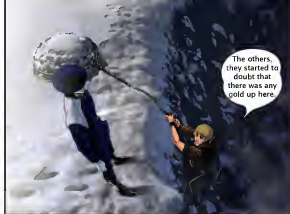
And I'm gonna kill you, too!











ZWOOM

...send you
to hell!





...must prove his courage by climbing Kagerou Mountain! My father also climbed this mountain. But alas, he did not return...!



This... is my father...! Chief-tain Long Horn of the Aba Tribe! By the law of my tribe, the chieftain...

So you came here to show them, huh?



My father did not flee. He climbed this mountain and he died.



The others in my tribe say that my father feared the mountain and fled... But I believed in him...



But the others didn't have a sure reason to climb the mountain.

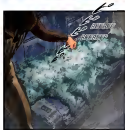
They were climbing to find gold which they weren't even sure existed.

A mountain climber's goal is to conquer the mountain by reaching the summit.



The others doubted this mountain and all died... but... how did the three of us manage to reach the top?









Yeah, you're right. If you believe in it, then it's real.



Huh?
What do you mean?
A mountain is a mountain.

Lady, do you think this mountain really exists...?



Well, let's hurry up off this mountain. It's freezin' up here.

COBRA: The Black Dragon King

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